



S/N NEW FILING

REISSUE PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: WAGNER ET AL. Original Patent No.: 6,234,541 B1
Original Patent Filing Date: JANUARY 11, 1999 Original Patent Issue Date: MAY 22, 2001
Assignee of Original Patent: DONALDSON COMPANY, INC.
Reissue Application Filing Date: FILED HEREWITH Attorney Docket No.: 758.748USRE
Title: U-BOLT CLAMP FOR SEALING LAP JOINTS

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on September 23, 2003

By: Patricia Cogan
Name:

REISSUE DECLARATION OF INVENTORS
FOR REISSUE OF U.S. PATENT 6,234,541 UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.175

We, Wayne M. Wagner residing at 120 Redwood Drive, Apple Valley, Minnesota 55124;

John T. Herman residing at 4165 Flannery Lake Road, Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501; Michael

J. Protas residing at 2745 Ewing Avenue North, Robbinsdale, Minnesota 55422; and James P.

Shields residing at 1106 Buck Creek Boulevard, Fairbank, Iowa 50629 all citizens of the United

States of America, declare as follows:

1. We believe that we are the original inventors of the invention described and claimed in U.S. Patent No. 6,234,541 B1, granted on May 22, 2001, for which we solicit a reissue patent.

2. We hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120/365 of any United States and PCT international application(s) listed below:

Final?
John?

U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	STATUS
09/025,895	18 FEBRUARY 1998	ABANDONED
PCT APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	STATUS

3. We have reviewed and understand the contents of the specification and claims of this application, including reissue claims 32-46 added by preliminary amendment. We believe the above-identified patent is partly inoperative by reason of claiming less than we had the right to claim in the patent. Specifically, it was an error to fail to include in the above-identified patent, claims such as those set forth in reissue claims 32-46.

4. Specifically, it was an error, for example, not to include a claim such as claim 32, which has been reproduced below next to originally issued claim 1. Claim 32 has been reworded as compared to claim 1 to provide a different scope of coverage. It was an error not to include such a claim, with the reworded limitations.

Original Claim 1	Claim 32
A clamp comprising:	A clamp comprising:
a saddle member having a concave saddle portion;	a saddle member having a concave saddle region;
	a first curved shim secured to the concave saddle region of the saddle member;

Original Claim 1	Claim 32
a U-bolt mounted on the saddle member, the U-bolt having a concave portion oriented opposed to the saddle member concave saddle portion; and	a U-shaped structure mounted on the saddle member, the U-shaped structure including spaced-apart threaded legs and a second curved shim that extends between the threaded legs, the second curved shim being positioned to oppose the first curved shim;
at least one shim positioned between the U-bolt and the saddle member,	(see first and second shims recited above)
the shim being made of metal and forming substantially a full cylinder at least when the saddle member and the U-bolt are drawn completely together.	the first and second shims being made of metal and forming substantially a full cylinder at least when the saddle member and the U-shaped structure are drawn completely together.

In addition, it was an error, for example, not to include a claim such as claim 40, which has been reproduced below next to originally issued claim 1. Claim 40 has been reworded as to claim 1 to provide a different scope of coverage. It was an error not to include such a claim, with the reworded limitations.

Original Claim 1	Claim 40
A clamp comprising:	A clamp comprising:
a saddle member having a concave saddle portion;	a saddle member having a concave saddle region;
	a first curved shim secured to the concave saddle region of the saddle member;

Original Claim 1	Claim 40
a U-bolt mounted on the saddle member, the U-bolt having a concave portion oriented opposed to the saddle member concave saddle portion; and	a bolt structure mounted on the saddle member, the bolt structure including spaced-apart threaded legs, the bolt structure being connected to a second curved shim that extends between the spaced-apart threaded legs, the second curved shim being positioned to oppose the first curved shim;
at least one shim positioned between the U-bolt and the saddle member,	(see first and second shims recited above)
the shim being made of metal and forming substantially a full cylinder at least when the saddle member and the U-bolt are drawn completely together.	the first and second shims being made of metal and forming substantially a full cylinder at least when the saddle member and the bolt structure are drawn completely together.

In addition, it was an error, for example, not to include a claim such as claim 44, which has been reproduced below next to originally issued claim 27. Claim 44 has been reworded as compared to claim 27 to provide a different scope of coverage. It was an error not to include such a claim with reworded limitations.

Original Claim 27	Claim 44
A clamp comprising:	A clamp comprising:
a saddle member having a concave saddle portion;	a saddle member having a concave saddle portion;
a U-bolt mounted on the saddle member, the U-shaped structure having a concave portion oriented opposed to the saddle member concave saddle portion;	a U-shaped structure mounted on the saddle member, the U-shaped structure having a concave portion oriented opposed to the saddle member concave saddle portion;

Original Claim 27	Claim 44
a first curved shim secured to the saddle member concave saddle portion, the first curved shim being made of metal;	a first curved sealing plate secured to the saddle member concave saddle portion, the first curved sealing plate being made of metal;
a second curved shim secured to the U-bolt concave portion, the second shim being made of metal, and the first curved shim having a concave side opposed to a concave side of the second curved shim; and	a second curved sealing plate defining the concave portion of the U-shaped structure, the second sealing plate being made of metal, and the first curved sealing plate having a concave side opposed to the concave portion of the second curved sealing plate; and
the first curved shim covering at least a central, mid-region of the concave saddle portion.	the first curved sealing plate covering at least a central, mid-region of the concave saddle portion.

In addition, it was an error, for example, not to include a claim such as claim 46, which has been reproduced below next to originally issued claim 1. Claim 46 has been reworded as compared to claim 1 to provide a different scope of coverage. It was an error not to include such a claim with reworded limitations.

Original Claim 1	Claim 46
A clamp comprising:	A clamp comprising:
a saddle member having a concave saddle portion;	a first clamp component comprising a U-shaped structure including a first curved metal sealing plate defining a first concave surface, the U-shaped structure also including first and second threaded legs positioned at opposite sides of the first curved metal sealing plate; and

Original Claim 1	Claim 46
a U-bolt mounted on the saddle member, the U-bolt having a concave portion oriented opposed to the saddle member concave saddle portion; and	a second clamp component including first and second spaced-apart leg receivers for respectively receiving the first and second legs of the first clamp component, the second clamp component also including a second curved metal sealing plate defining a second concave surface that opposes the first concave surface when the first and second legs of the first clamp component are received in the first and second leg receivers of the second clamp component; and
at least one shim positioned between the U-bolt and the saddle member,	(see first and second curved metal sealing plates recited above)
the shim being made of metal and forming substantially a full cylinder at least when the saddle member and the U-bolt are drawn completely together.	the first and second curved metal sealing plates forming substantially a full cylinder when the first and second clamp components are drawn completely together.

5. All errors being corrected in this reissue application arose without any deceptive intention on our part.

6. We acknowledge the duty to disclose information that is material to the examination of this application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a).

7. We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of the Title 18 of the United

States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Wayne M. Wagner

Date: Sept. 7, 22

John T. Herman

Date: _____

Michael J. Proffas

Date: Sept 9, 2003

James P. Shields

Date: _____



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REISSUE PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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By:
Name:

Patricia Cygan
Patricia Cygan

REISSUE DECLARATION OF INVENTORS
FOR REISSUE OF U.S. PATENT 6,234,541 UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.175

We, Wayne M. Wagner residing at 120 Redwood Drive, Apple Valley, Minnesota 55124;
John T. Herman residing at 4165 Flannery Lake Road, Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501; Michael
J. Protas residing at 2745 Ewing Avenue North, Robbinsdale, Minnesota 55422; and James P.
Shields residing at 1106 Buck Creek Boulevard, Fairbank, Iowa 50629 all citizens of the United
States of America, declare as follows:

1. We believe that we are the original inventors of the invention described and claimed in U.S. Patent No. 6,234,541 B1, granted on May 22, 2001, for which we solicit a reissue patent.
2. We hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120/365 of any United States and PCT international application(s) listed below:

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4. Specifically, it was an error, for example, not to include a claim such as claim 32, which has been reproduced below next to originally issued claim 1. Claim 32 has been reworded as compared to claim 1 to provide a different scope of coverage. It was an error not to include such a claim, with the reworded limitations.

Original Claim 1	Claim 32
A clamp comprising:	A clamp comprising:
a saddle member having a concave saddle portion;	a saddle member having a concave saddle region;
	a first curved shim secured to the concave saddle region of the saddle member;

Original Claim 1	Claim 32
a U-bolt mounted on the saddle member, the U-bolt having a concave portion oriented opposed to the saddle member concave saddle portion; and	a U-shaped structure mounted on the saddle member, the U-shaped structure including spaced-apart threaded legs and a second curved shim that extends between the threaded legs, the second curved shim being positioned to oppose the first curved shim;
at least one shim positioned between the U-bolt and the saddle member,	(see first and second shims recited above)
the shim being made of metal and forming substantially a full cylinder at least when the saddle member and the U-bolt are drawn completely together.	the first and second shims being made of metal and forming substantially a full cylinder at least when the saddle member and the U-shaped structure are drawn completely together.

In addition, it was an error, for example, not to include a claim such as claim 40, which has been reproduced below next to originally issued claim 1. Claim 40 has been reworded as to claim 1 to provide a different scope of coverage. It was an error not to include such a claim, with the reworded limitations.

Original Claim 1	Claim 40
A clamp comprising:	A clamp comprising:
a saddle member having a concave saddle portion;	a saddle member having a concave saddle region;
	a first curved shim secured to the concave saddle region of the saddle member;

Original Claim 1	Claim 40
a U-bolt mounted on the saddle member, the U-bolt having a concave portion oriented opposed to the saddle member concave saddle portion; and	a bolt structure mounted on the saddle member, the bolt structure including spaced-apart threaded legs, the bolt structure being connected to a second curved shim that extends between the spaced-apart threaded legs, the second curved shim being positioned to oppose the first curved shim;
at least one shim positioned between the U-bolt and the saddle member,	(see first and second shims recited above)
the shim being made of metal and forming substantially a full cylinder at least when the saddle member and the U-bolt are drawn completely together.	the first and second shims being made of metal and forming substantially a full cylinder at least when the saddle member and the bolt structure are drawn completely together.

In addition, it was an error, for example, not to include a claim such as claim 44, which has been reproduced below next to originally issued claim 27. Claim 44 has been reworded as compared to claim 27 to provide a different scope of coverage. It was an error not to include such a claim with reworded limitations.

Original Claim 27	Claim 44
A clamp comprising:	A clamp comprising:
a saddle member having a concave saddle portion;	a saddle member having a concave saddle portion;
a U-bolt mounted on the saddle member, the U-shaped structure having a concave portion oriented opposed to the saddle member concave saddle portion;	a U-shaped structure mounted on the saddle member, the U-shaped structure having a concave portion oriented opposed to the saddle member concave saddle portion;

Original Claim 27	Claim 44
a first curved shim secured to the saddle member concave saddle portion, the first curved shim being made of metal;	a first curved sealing plate secured to the saddle member concave saddle portion, the first curved sealing plate being made of metal;
a second curved shim secured to the U-bolt concave portion, the second shim being made of metal, and the first curved shim having a concave side opposed to a concave side of the second curved shim; and	a second curved sealing plate defining the concave portion of the U-shaped structure, the second sealing plate being made of metal, and the first curved sealing plate having a concave side opposed to the concave portion of the second curved sealing plate; and
the first curved shim covering at least a central, mid-region of the concave saddle portion.	the first curved sealing plate covering at least a central, mid-region of the concave saddle portion.

In addition, it was an error, for example, not to include a claim such as claim 46, which has been reproduced below next to originally issued claim 1. Claim 46 has been reworded as compared to claim 1 to provide a different scope of coverage. It was an error not to include such a claim with reworded limitations.

Original Claim 1	Claim 46
A clamp comprising:	A clamp comprising:
a saddle member having a concave saddle portion;	a first clamp component comprising a U-shaped structure including a first curved metal sealing plate defining a first concave surface, the U-shaped structure also including first and second threaded legs positioned at opposite sides of the first curved metal sealing plate; and

Original Claim 1	Claim 46
a U-bolt mounted on the saddle member, the U-bolt having a concave portion oriented opposed to the saddle member concave saddle portion; and	a second clamp component including first and second spaced-apart leg receivers for respectively receiving the first and second legs of the first clamp component, the second clamp component also including a second curved metal sealing plate defining a second concave surface that opposes the first concave surface when the first and second legs of the first clamp component are received in the first and second leg receivers of the second clamp component; and
at least one shim positioned between the U-bolt and the saddle member,	(see first and second curved metal sealing plates recited above)
the shim being made of metal and forming substantially a full cylinder at least when the saddle member and the U-bolt are drawn completely together.	the first and second curved metal sealing plates forming substantially a full cylinder when the first and second clamp components are drawn completely together.

5. All errors being corrected in this reissue application arose without any deceptive intention on our part.

6. We acknowledge the duty to disclose information that is material to the examination of this application in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a).

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Wayne M. Wagner

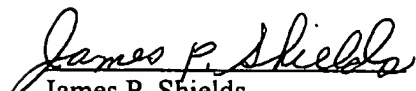
Date: _____

John T. Herman

Date: _____

Michael J. Protas

Date: _____


James P. Shields

Date: 9-3-2003



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By: Patricia Cygan
Name: Patricia Cygan

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at least one shim positioned between the U-bolt and the saddle member,	(see first and second shims recited above)
the shim being made of metal and forming substantially a full cylinder at least when the saddle member and the U-bolt are drawn completely together.	the first and second shims being made of metal and forming substantially a full cylinder at least when the saddle member and the U-shaped structure are drawn completely together.

In addition, it was an error, for example, not to include a claim such as claim 40, which has been reproduced below next to originally issued claim 1. Claim 40 has been reworded as to claim 1 to provide a different scope of coverage. It was an error not to include such a claim, with the reworded limitations.

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A clamp comprising:	A clamp comprising:
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Original Claim 1	Claim 40
a U-bolt mounted on the saddle member, the U-bolt having a concave portion oriented opposed to the saddle member concave saddle portion; and	a bolt structure mounted on the saddle member, the bolt structure including spaced-apart threaded legs, the bolt structure being connected to a second curved shim that extends between the spaced-apart threaded legs, the second curved shim being positioned to oppose the first curved shim;
at least one shim positioned between the U-bolt and the saddle member,	(see first and second shims recited above)
the shim being made of metal and forming substantially a full cylinder at least when the saddle member and the U-bolt are drawn completely together.	the first and second shims being made of metal and forming substantially a full cylinder at least when the saddle member and the bolt structure are drawn completely together.

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Original Claim 27	Claim 44
A clamp comprising:	A clamp comprising:
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a U-bolt mounted on the saddle member, the U-shaped structure having a concave portion oriented opposed to the saddle member concave saddle portion;	a U-shaped structure mounted on the saddle member, the U-shaped structure having a concave portion oriented opposed to the saddle member concave saddle portion;

Original Claim 27	Claim 44
a first curved shim secured to the saddle member concave saddle portion, the first curved shim being made of metal;	a first curved sealing plate secured to the saddle member concave saddle portion, the first curved sealing plate being made of metal;
a second curved shim secured to the U-bolt concave portion, the second shim being made of metal, and the first curved shim having a concave side opposed to a concave side of the second curved shim; and	a second curved sealing plate defining the concave portion of the U-shaped structure, the second sealing plate being made of metal, and the first curved sealing plate having a concave side opposed to the concave portion of the second curved sealing plate; and
the first curved shim covering at least a central, mid-region of the concave saddle portion.	the first curved sealing plate covering at least a central, mid-region of the concave saddle portion.

In addition, it was an error, for example, not to include a claim such as claim 46, which has been reproduced below next to originally issued claim 1. Claim 46 has been reworded as compared to claim 1 to provide a different scope of coverage. It was an error not to include such a claim with reworded limitations.

Original Claim 1	Claim 46
A clamp comprising:	A clamp comprising:
a saddle member having a concave saddle portion;	a first clamp component comprising a U-shaped structure including a first curved metal sealing plate defining a first concave surface, the U-shaped structure also including first and second threaded legs positioned at opposite sides of the first curved metal sealing plate; and

Original Claim 1	Claim 46
a U-bolt mounted on the saddle member, the U-bolt having a concave portion oriented opposed to the saddle member concave saddle portion; and	a second clamp component including first and second spaced-apart leg receivers for respectively receiving the first and second legs of the first clamp component, the second clamp component also including a second curved metal sealing plate defining a second concave surface that opposes the first concave surface when the first and second legs of the first clamp component are received in the first and second leg receivers of the second clamp component; and
at least one shim positioned between the U-bolt and the saddle member,	(see first and second curved metal sealing plates recited above)
the shim being made of metal and forming substantially a full cylinder at least when the saddle member and the U-bolt are drawn completely together.	the first and second curved metal sealing plates forming substantially a full cylinder when the first and second clamp components are drawn completely together.

5. All errors being corrected in this reissue application arose without any deceptive intention on our part.

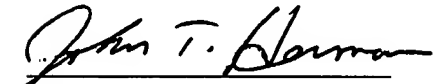
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Wayne M. Wagner

Date: _____



John T. Herman

Date: 9-8-03

Michael J. Protas

Date: _____

James P. Shields

Date: _____